

SELF-MADE MEN WHO RECENTLY ENTERED BUSINESS

Tonic Storiettes and Thumbnail Anecdotes of Some Wondrous and Advancement.

BY JOHN ELPRETH WATKINS.
Washington, D. C., May 1.—They heard the rattle, then the roar. They saw the cursed slag pile slide, and when the dirty cloud of dust had disappeared they knew that the "kid" had been swallowed up. While they bent their backs to shovel him out they were sure that his little ghost had already bubbled up through the wicked gray stuff and had gone on its way to glory. They struck him at last, laid him stiff upon the ground, and while they bent over him they found some breath in his body and in his pocket a book on elementary physics.

He was sixteen and had never been to school. Yet on the same day that he bought the "elementary physics" he had brought home a volume of Macaulay's Essays. He hoped some day to save \$200 and become a cabinet maker, but this seemed a long way off. The miners, there in the Shamokin fields, would hear nothing against him because none of his elders was as handy or nearly as willing as he to write them a letter when they had something to tell the folks at home. He became somewhat of an orator in the Knights of Labor, and one day, when a lad of eighteen and not yet five feet tall—now a typewriter who heard his gift of gab during a labor meeting let loose on him the bug for studying law.

And it was with Kent's Commentaries under his arm that the lad got to going down into the mines now in the gray hours.

Studied in the Mine.
In those inky caverns, by the flickering flame on his cap, he studied law at odd hours by day. More study was needed at night, but after the long day in the darkness and sweat and impure air it was hard to keep awake—a difficulty which he overcame by holding his book in a position that hurt his arm.

The pain kept him awake, but he was up as early as ever to dig in the mines. And he kept on digging till one day, when he missed him. That day he washed the sweat off his face and put on his Sunday clothes. They told afterward of seeing him enter the court house. That day he came home bearing in his pocket a license to practice law in the State of Maryland. And the other day he took his oath as a new member of the Sixty-second Congress.

Learned a Little at Sunday School.
So much and a bit more for Dave Lewis, son of poor Welsh immigrants, who settled down to life in a Pennsylvania log cabin, where he was born and where, at the age of five, his mother taught him how to read a little. At Sunday school he learned a bit more. At night he began work in the mines at \$10 a month, for there were four younger children at home. At twelve the little family was left motherless. Meanwhile Dave had borrowed some schoolbooks, and that was how he came to get far enough along to swallow Macaulay and elementary physics when he was sixteen.

If there is any poor lad in the land

who has his lip out these days because he thinks he has no chance, swallow not only this story of Dave Lewis, but these additional scraps from the lives of the other new self-made representatives in this Sixty-second Congress, now sitting in solemn session. It has taken this month that they have been here haggling to sort them out, and I count about a baker's dozen of them whose climb to the white-domed temple of our lawmakers has been against terrific odds.

A Carriage Painter's Apprentice.
There is John Smith, one of the new Michigan members, whose immigrant parents brought him when an infant of two from Ireland to Ohio, where, he tells me, he was apprenticed to a carriage painter when eleven. But at thirteen, when his father, mother and ten brothers and sisters moved to Michigan, he became a farm laborer, at the same time picking up the trade of stone mason.

To spread the mortar and set the stones plumb was John's ambition till he was seventeen. Then he woke up and entered the little schoolhouse at the cross-roads. Life had to do extra jobs in summer to make up for the time thus spent. But when he was twenty-one, with four brief winters of schooling to his credit, John found that by working for himself he could earn enough in summer to keep him in school during the spring, as well as the autumn. Thus, he worked his way through high school and into the University of Michigan, to the profession of a lawyer, to a bank presidency and a seat in Congress.

A Bridgeworker's Perilous Career.
The same kind of stuff is in Frank Buchanan, new member from Illinois. In the days of Daniel Boone his ancestors pioneered from Virginia into Jefferson county, Indiana, where they raised fine crops of both vegetables and youngsters, but the yield of their latter was so plentiful that when it came Frank's father's turn, there was mighty little land to support his family, also fashioned upon Rooseveltian ideals. When the lad was about eight the father died, leaving the mother with the children and a mortgage on the farm. So Frank had to get to work. For three or four winters he managed to squeeze in a few weeks' schooling, between late harvest and early planting, but soon he had to say good-bye to the schoolhouse altogether.

His first job away from home, he tells me, was at one of the Kentucky River locks. Then for a time he worked in timber, becoming superintendent for a time. Working his way down the Mississippi, he reached the bridge that was being put across that river at Memphis and got a new job here, thus learning the trade of bridge builder and structural ironworker when past twenty-five.

While working on the great bridge that was reaching from Louisville to Jeffersonville in 1902, a thousand tons of the steel work crashed down, carrying fifty of the fellow workmen to



WILLIAM H. WILDER, Massachusetts.

death.

How He Escaped Death.
But Providence was kind to Buchanan that fatal day. With a handful of co-laborers he was left high and dry upon a narrow pier that towered ninety feet above the river. Everything was stripped from each side of the pier, and there they clung in mid-air, with no means of escape, save a bit of two-inch line only twenty feet long.

While anxious crowds looked on from the river bank Buchanan and his companions raveled the line into separate strands and tied these together into a single, slender rope. Then down it they went, one by one, hand over hand. It did not snap, and they reached the river safely. After making other escapes, nearly as narrow as this, Buchanan got to be "walking delegate" in the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers' Union, which, while he was still in the thirties, elected him its international president. He served four successive terms, declining re-election, and it was during his administration that Sam Parks, an officer of the union, was arrested in New York for holding



J. M. C. SMITH, Michigan.

townsfolk for fourteen years, packed off to China, built and operated the

first woolen mill in the Chinese empire, from printer became publisher, from publisher real estate operator and from real estate operator Congressman. And his colleague, Charles Bowman, in the neighboring Eleventh Kentucky district, started out as a woodworker before working his way to a college degree

There, too, is John Farr, of Scranton, Pa., who from newsboy became printer, from printer became publisher, from publisher real estate operator and from real estate operator Congressman. And his colleague, Charles Bowman, in the neighboring Eleventh Kentucky district, started out as a woodworker before working his way to a college degree



FRANK BUCHANAN, Illinois.

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DAVID J. LEWIS, Maryland.

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of civil engineer, which, coupled with grit and ability, led to his advancement as coal road manager, mine superintendent and mine owner.

From Forge to Congress.
His neighboring district, the Eleventh, has just sent the House Bob Lee, the erstwhile blacksmith, who went from the forge into business, and from the Twenty-fourth comes Charles Matthews, who, although now a prosperous banker and manufacturer, started to work, when a child, in the rolling mills of New Castle, his present home.

None of these men had a worse struggle in the beginning than George Konig, of Baltimore, who did not learn to read and write until after he had mastered the trade of ship-calker. He is now superintendent and general manager of one of the Monumental city's largest manufacturing plants. Such another is James P. Maher, of Brooklyn, who as a boy was apprenticed to a hatter, which trade he afterwards followed, until becoming a labor union official and politician.

Two boys who paid their way through school by working in country stores between sessions were Lobeck, of Omaha, and Kindred, of Long Island City, N. Y., the former of whom became a drummer, State legislator and city official, and the latter a physician, alienist and landowner. (Copyright, 1911, by John Elfreth Watkins.)

Warrenton Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Warrenton, Va., May 4.—Miss Emily W. Fletcher left this week for Baltimore, where she will spend some time with her sister, Mrs. Joseph A. Bell, of Richmond, is the guest of her parents, Colonel and Mrs. Grenville Gaines.

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Bagby, of Baltimore, spent several days in Warrenton this week. Mr. E. W. Weston, of Alexandria, were recent visitors. Mrs. W. E. Robinson, Jr., left this week for a visit to her home in West Virginia. George Robbins left on Wednesday for North Carolina, where he will visit his mother.

Mrs. Joan C. Humphries, who has been the guest of Mrs. Grafton Beall at Conway Grove, went to Washington on Wednesday to spend some time. Walter Bishop, who has been spending several months in Alton, S. C., is at home. Mrs. McCuen, of Washington, is the guest of Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Hester.

Miss Annie Camden Spilman is spending some time in Kentucky. Mr. Virgil Reeder, of Washington, is the guest of her parents, Captain and Mrs. J. R. Colvin. William H. Gaines spent the week-end in town with his parents, Colonel and Mrs. Grenville Gaines.

Dr. Charlie Fair leaves this week for Greenville, S. C., where he will locate. Miss Anderson, of Washington, spent the week-end in Warrenton. Harry H. King, of Washington, was in town for several days this week.

On Saturday afternoon Miss Mary Worthen entertained a large number of guests at tea. During the afternoon the engagement of Miss Sadie Winter Sublett, daughter of Mrs. E. H. Sublett, and Edward Cole Thornton was announced. The wedding will take place in early June. Miss Sublett is well known in Warrenton and a social favorite, having made her home here for a number of years. Mr. Thornton is the son of the late Mayor Thomas C. Thornton.

Miss Ida Evans entertained on Tuesday afternoon in honor of her guests, Miss Mary Ellis Russell, among those present were Miss Rosemary Nelson, Mrs. Deane, Miss Sublett, Miss Wertheimer, Mrs. Hicks, Miss Bessie Hicks, Miss Tongue, Miss Elizabeth Spilman, Miss Fletcher, Miss Newby, Miss Genevieve Fletcher, Mrs. Hester, Mr. Beall, Miss Louise Evans, Miss Hilary and Mrs. Maurice Pilen.

A Nubian of Washington, spent Wednesday in Warrenton. Miss Elizabeth T. Gaines entertained at tea on Wednesday afternoon. Miss Annie Hoyer has arrived in Warrenton for the summer months. Mrs. Allison Williams Douglas, who has been spending the winter in the south of France, has returned to her home near Warrenton for the summer months.

Mrs. Adamson and Mr. Adamson, of Massachusetts, have returned home after a visit to Mrs. Blair Johnson. Mrs. O. T. Crosby and Miss Crosby have arrived in Warrenton and opened their house for the summer months. Mrs. E. Beverly Slater is spending some time in Warrenton.

Mrs. Jennie M. Payne left this week for Wilmington, Del., where she will be the guest of her sister, Mrs. Charles Owens. Mrs. G. W. Nelson is at home after a visit to her daughter in Clarke county. Rev. E. S. Hinks left on Tuesday for Herndon to attend the meeting of the Piedmont convention.

Mrs. Clark, of Union, S. C., spent several days in Warrenton, where she was the guest of Mrs. Hugh Hamilton. Mrs. Lomax-Green is in Warrenton for the summer. Mrs. W. W. Green, who was the guest of her niece, Mrs. Woodson, of Charlottesville, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Maples. Dr. John Hicks, of States Island, is the guest of his father, Dr. R. L. Hicks.

T. M. Houchens has returned to Warrenton after a visit to Charlottesville, where he attended a reunion of the Monticello Guards. Mrs. M. G. Douglas visited in Washington several days this week. Miss Ellen Low, of Nokesville, has arrived in Warrenton, where she will spend some time with Mrs. F. A. B. Portman.

The Warrenton Hunt Club will give a horse show on their grounds on May 13. Blair Johnson, president of the Warrenton Hunt Club, has consented to be chairman for the occasion. There will be several jumping classes, and enthusiastic support is looked for.

Blacksburg Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Blacksburg, Va., May 6.—Mrs. Mary Lou Black, of Dublin, and Mrs. S. Apperson, of Marion, are with Mrs. Mary I. Black, who is quite sick at her home here. Mrs. Francis D. Wilson and Mrs. Howard S. Reed were delegates from the local society to the Woman's Missionary Union meeting in Blacksburg, Va., this week. Rev. Robert B. Nelson spent this week in Roanoke attending the sessions of the convention of the Diocese of Southwest Virginia.

Miss Emma S. Verby, principal of the Blacksburg High School, left Wednesday for her home at Norfolk, S. C. this week. Mrs. J. S. A. Johnson and two children returned to the institute to-day after a month's visit to Blacksburg. Mrs. Boyce Miller left Thursday for New York, from where she will sail for Panama to join Mr. Miller for the summer months. Mrs. William M. Montgomery, of Christiansburg, spent a part of this week here as the guest of her sister, Mrs. Kabrich. Miss Dora Adams, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, was the week-end guest of her cousin, Mrs. J. Kelly Groseclose.

William L. Carter, of Giles county, is here with his sister, Miss Georgia Lancaster, who has been quite ill. Miss Susie Henderson is at home from Richmond, where she has been a student at the Holy Name Convent this session.

Powhatan Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Powhatan, Va., May 6.—Mrs. Wallace Taylor, of Lynchburg, spent several days with relatives in this village this week. Mrs. Charles Clements, of Genito, visited relatives in the village this week. Mrs. Robert Winfree spent several days in Richmond this week. Mrs. Noble Jordan, of Lynchburg, is the guest of Mrs. R. D. Tucker. Miss Jessie Garrett was the week-end guest of Mrs. Paul Lipscomb. F. S. Dance, of this place, spent several days in Richmond this week. Miss Edith Vanduser was the week-end guest of Miss Annie Reynolds. Mrs. F. C. Nichols, of Flat Rock, is spending several days in Richmond this week.

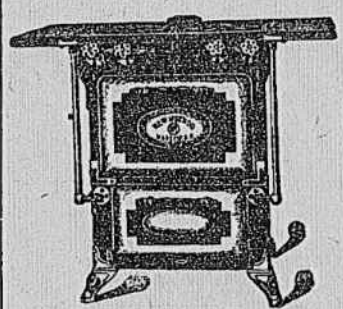
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The most attractive assortment of extra good values to be found in this city! You don't need a full purse to trade here. Come in—buy to-day—pay what you want down—then pay what you want each week at

"THE STORE THAT SAVES YOU MONEY!"

New Method Gas Ranges

Save one-quarter of your gas bills! Cook quickly and won't heat up the house. More and better improvements than any other, will cut down kitchen expenses and add to the comfort of the household. If you'll call and see them demonstrated you'll buy no other!



Gibson Refrigerators

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Perfect ventilation is obtained through a system of vents which produce a constant circulation of cold, dry air throughout the food chambers, thus keeping all foods pure and wholesome in the hottest weather. Extremely economical consumption of ice is assured through perfect insulation. Double lining of mineral wool and charcoal between outer and inner walls. Solidly constructed of selected hardwood, tongued and grooved to fit and finished in the best possible manner. Sanitary and easily cleaned. We've got just the size you want at just the price you're willing to pay! Prices from \$5.95 upward.

New Perfection Oil Cook Stoves

The New Perfection Wick Blue Flame Oil Cook Stove concentrates all the heat at the burners, and will not heat up the kitchen in hot weather. Can be had with or without cabinet top. The mechanical principles of these stoves insure satisfactory cooking or baking at the lowest cost. Lights quickly, burns freely. Free from dust, dirt and explosive danger. Can be turned high, medium or low. Its adoption in your home means "solid summer comfort!"

Special for This Week

10-piece COMBINATION BATHROOM SET, reduced price \$2.50. 89c

A complete and convenient equipment for your bathroom; heavily nickel-plated and guaranteed in construction. Consists of the following items:
Toothbrush Holder.
Towel Bar.
Comb and Brush Shelf.
Tumbler Holder.
Stationary Soap Tray.
Movable Sponge Holder.
Toilet Paper Holder.
Match Safe.
Movable Soap Tray.
Brush Broom Holder.

New Mattings

Our own importation, consisting of all the latest designs and patterns, at greatly reduced prices for this week. A remarkably good Matting, in a variety of patterns, at 12½¢ yard.

Jap Matting Rugs

Good quality, neat patterns, 9x12, \$2.69.

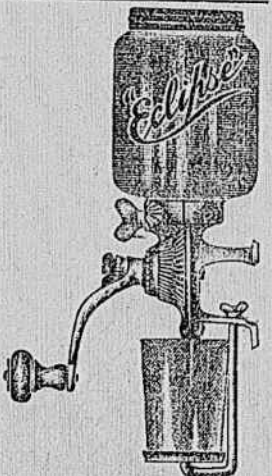
Crex Rugs

Figured border, 9x12, \$8.50.
Plain border, 9x12, \$7.50.

Special for This Week

This Coffee Mill - 39c

Glass canister on top holds one pound of coffee beans. Keeps contents fresh, as it is absolutely air-tight. Buy one—attach it to the wall, and grind your own coffee as required. You'll be surprised at the richer flavor and strength. Stop buying ready-ground coffee, as the strength and flavor evaporates! Take advantage of this opportunity and buy before our supply of these Mills is exhausted!



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